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the description of *Crangonyx knoxensis* by O. P. Hay printed (June 27, 1878) on the extras of Dr. Hay's reprint of his "Description of a new species of *Asellus*" from the Bulletin of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, No. 2. This reprint, by the way, possesses a plate, illustrating *Asellus militaris*, *Crangonyx knoxensis* and *C. gracilis* Smith, which does not appear in the Bulletin.

**Some Problematic Worms.**—Schepotieff has a valuable systematic paper<sup>1</sup> on the interesting worms of uncertain affinities grouped as Desmoscolicidæ, Echinoderidæ, Chætosomatidæ, and Rhabdogaster and Trichoderma. The article begins with some interesting conclusions as to geographic and bathymetric distribution and then proceeds to the description of the species, illustrated by good figures, in which numerous new forms are recognized.

C. Davidoff thinks<sup>2</sup> that he has found evidences of a true mesoderm in the larva of the Narcomedusan jelly fish *Solmundella*. Photographs of sections which he gives show a distinct cell-layer between ectoderm and entoderm, not the structureless mesogloea usual in that position. If this interpretation be correct, it will, as Davidoff remarks, remove one of the objections to a close association of Ctenophores with the Cnidaria.

Leisenitz has studied<sup>3</sup> the chitinous spines occurring on a number of insect larvæ which serve as organs of locomotion. Numerous zinc etchings illustrate the kinds of spines and their arrangement. The results are not readily summarized and have little systematic importance.

Forbes' Keys to Lepidoptera and Caterpillars<sup>4</sup> will doubtless prove of value to beginners in the study of the butterflies of New England, while others will find the keys to the larvæ of use. First in order is a list of butterflies and larger moths with size and color markings, food plants of the larvæ, dates of imago, number of broods and haunts; next a key based upon color of the species of large Lepi-

<sup>1</sup> Zoologischer Anzeiger, **31**, p. 132, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> Zoologischer Anzeiger, **31**, p. 119, 1907.

<sup>3</sup> Ueber chitinöse Fortbewegungen — Apparate einiger Insektenlarven. München, 1906.

<sup>4</sup> Field Tables of Lepidoptera by Ww. T. M. Forbes, Worcester, Mass., 1906, pp. 141.

doiptera found in New England. The second portion (over half) is given to a key to the caterpillars of all but the smaller Lepidoptera of the same region.

J. F. McClendon has described four new species of *Myzostoma* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 32, 1907, obtained from the collection of crinoids in the National Museum.

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## BOTANY

**Sukkulente Euphorbien.**<sup>1</sup>—This is the first of a series of illustrated handbooks of succulent plants designed by the author to meet the demand that the scattered literature should be brought together in a form accessible to the many cultivators of this group of plants. The aim is to give both a scientific classification and cultural hints on those species now in cultivation and this work has been admirably done, both in the text and in the numerous half-tone illustrations.

One hundred and nine species and eight varieties of Euphorbias are treated, nine species and two varieties being new to science and three species have been renamed. The species listed are for the most part natives of Africa, though a few are from the adjacent islands and from India, and three are American. A good working key is given to the twelve sections under which the species are arranged and the sections again are each provided with good comprehensive keys so that a species may be readily determined. The descriptions are full and clear, supplemented by full synonymy and by additional notes on habitats and comparisons between species, ending in a short note on the culture required for the species. Following the treatment of species a chapter is devoted to the general culture required for this group of succulents and the text ends in a full index to the literature bearing on the group.

In view of the fact that several new species appear in the publication it may be well to state that, though the title page bears the date of 1907, copies have been distributed in December 1906.

C. H. THOMPSON.

<sup>1</sup>Berger, Alwin. *Sukkulente Euphorbien*. Stuttgart, 1907. 12 mo. v + 135 pp. 33 Abb.